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Women in Computing

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Sun, Nov 8, 2015 at 6:17 PM

To: a.p.shanthi@cs.annauniv.edu, Rajeswari Sridhar <rajisridhar@gmail.com>, manju@annauniv.edu

Ma'am,

Hope you are doing great!

I was just thinking if we could encourage a women hackathon during Abacus 2016. I feel encouraging such initiatives will inspire the girls in our department. To bring the girls to be equally active as others, we could organize certain CSEA club activity as well.

When I was applying to the Grad Schools, I found many colleges having Women In Computing clubs. If we could start one from within the CSEA , it would be a hit. I'm in talks with the Aakriti club , to see if we can target the entire CEG girls population. But I feel , CS - being my home department could be a potential testing ground to see the receptivity of such programs.

My pointers are

-get them understand what they are capable of. There is a general perception that girls can't compete enough in technology. Many of them stay away from participation , because they feel they are not competent enough. This can help overcome that.

-Inspire them , with talks from successful women Alumni and monthly meetings where we talk about successful women in tech, and hold small scale activities and publish the winners on a Facebook Page or department website.

- Make them aware of opportunities like Grace Hopper Conference for Women In computing etc

- hold coding classes `(competitive programming ones or/and curricular oriented which ever they wish for)

-organize contests (appathons/ in-department coding contest/hackathons)

For mentors, I can grab a bunch of friends -Shreya, Hafeeza , Sangeetha, Anushya , Bala and other boys who are great in programming. That shouldn't be a problem. For instance the other day, I saw the IT department seniors holding programming classes for their juniors. This particular aspect could be extended to boys in our department as well.

Any suggestion, teachers? What do you think?

Thank you ,

Ancy,

G batch,

Final Year CS